



BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF
Medical Officer of Health
FOR
1943

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer,
Medical Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29099109>

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CHATHAM COUNCIL

The Mayor

(Councillor J. T. Hawes, J.P.)

The Deputy Mayor

(Alderman H. J. Cloake)

Alderman W. J. Webb, J.P.

Alderman F. G. Luff

Alderman E. G. Maynard

Alderman R. F. Brain, C.C.

Alderman F. H. Lawrence

Councillor H. J. Stearne

Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman

Councillor W. F. Hollands

Councillor M. Packer

Councillor Canon T. Ryan

Councillor G. B. Silver

Councillor W. Heath

Councillor W. Blackmore

Councillor F. O. Harris (deceased, Oct., 1943).

Councillor G. W. Hitches

Councillor A. E. Lake

Councillor W. T. Davis

Councillor J. Presnail

Councillor R. Homden

Councillor L. E. Shave

Councillor G. A. Rosenberg

Councillor E. J. Whitaker.

Councillor F. A. Chappell, J.P. (appointed 3-11-43).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

This consists of the whole of the Members of the Council.
(*Chairman*—Alderman F. LAWRENCE)

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

This consists of the Members of the Public Health Committee with the following co-optative members:—Mesdames E. M. CROOKS, B. A. LEWIS, A. M. LUCAS, H. J. STEARNE, J.P., L. STAYLAERS, and Rev. VIOLET HEDGER.
(*Chairman*—Councillor Mrs. F. M. FREEMAN.)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

SHEILA M. M. NIALL, L.M.S.S.A.

Dental Surgeon :

WILLIAM C. GRIFFITHS, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

THOMAS HOWARD (a) (b).

Senior District Sanitary Inspector :

A. W. R. TURNBULL (a) (b).

District Sanitary Inspector :

W. JOHNSON (a).

Senior Health Visitor :

Miss M. WILD (c) (d) (e).

Health Visitors :

Miss R. TIPPLE (c) (d) (e)

Mrs. F. E. GAFFNEY (d).

Miss J. M. MOSS (c)

Miss J. TOMBLESON (c) (d)

Chief Clerk :

H. L. CLARK (s).

Acting Chief Clerk :

Miss V. F. M. JENKINS.

Clerks :

Miss E. ROGERS (s).

A. C. STRIKE.

Miss P. THIRGOOD.

Clinic Clerk :

Miss G. HAKEMAN.

Dental Attendant :

Miss J. E. ROBERTS.

- (a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (b) Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) State Registered Nurse.
- (d) State Certified Midwife.
- (e) Health Visitor's Certificate.
- (f) Sanitary Science Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (s) Serving in H.M. Forces.

Borough of Chatham

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the Public Health for the year 1943. Again in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health it is in an abbreviated form.

Generally the health of the Borough has been excellent, the incidence of the common infectious diseases has been low and there are no signs of a lowering of the general nutrition.

Unfortunately Infant Mortality, though much better than 1942, is still much above pre-war rates, a condition for which I am still unable to give a satisfactory reason.

The Government proposals for a new Health Service have been outlined in the White Paper and the Education Act has been passed.

The latter transfers all Education powers, including of course the School Medical Service, to County and County Borough Councils, whilst the White Paper proposes that Maternity and Child Welfare services should pass to the same authority. All hospitals, including infectious disease hospitals and certain specialist services, will pass not to the County Council but to a larger authority composed of representatives of County and County Borough Councils in this "Region" thus leaving to Municipal Boroughs only what might be "Environmental Public Health."

It is, I am afraid, impossible to have one authority in charge of all public health services. It would be either too small to economically administer the highly specialised Hospital Services or too big to adequately deal with the purely local environmental services such as housing, nuisances, etc. It is true that some delegation of powers in regard to School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Services is envisaged, but how such a scheme will work in practice can only be decided after due trial.

Undoubtedly in Chatham the chief problem before you is housing. Owing to overcrowding and the natural demand by young married couples for a home it will be almost impossible to adequately deal with much of the slum property quickly. It has, for some years now, been difficult to get even the most urgent repairs carried out and the neglect of these has a cumulative effect on the condition of many houses.

The dangers implied in the erection of many temporary houses such as the "Portal" house are obvious, but if we are going to provide houses to meet the demand in a reasonable time, and of that there can surely be no question, then this type of house with all its objections, known and unknown, represents the only solution. There can be no doubt that there are at present in Chatham many hundreds of families who would gladly exchange their present heart-breaking accommodation, I cannot call it a home, for a "Portal" house.

To all my staff I would tender my most grateful thanks for the loyal and conscientious manner in which they have fulfilled every task given them. To Dr. Sheila Niall and Mr. Howard I would pay special tribute.

To you, Sir, Madam and Gentlemen, I would place on record my appreciation of the support and consideration you have always given me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chatham.

9th October, 1944.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,356
Rateable Value	£275,475
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,080

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	20.1
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.38

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal Causes	1.3

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	68.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	63.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	101.6

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

There is no delay in sending results.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES**1. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

(a) Ante Natal Clinic. TUESDAYS, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
THURSDAYS, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

(b) Children under 5 years of age.

MONDAYS	}	2—4.30 p.m.
TUESDAYS		
FRIDAYS		

(c) Dental. By appointment daily.

(d) A combined Child Welfare and Ante Natal Clinic is held at the Methodist Hall, Walderslade, on the first Friday of each month.

2. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

WEDNESDAYS 2—4.30 p.m.

3. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

(a) Minor Ailments and Medical Inspection.

MONDAYS	}	9—9.30 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS		
FRIDAYS		

(b) Dental. Daily by appointment, 9—4.30 p.m.

(c) Refraction. One session each week by appointment.

(d) Medical Inspection at Schools. Four sessions per week by appointment.

4. OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

By appointment. 1st and 3rd THURSDAYS in each month.
9 a.m.—12 noon.

5. SCABIES CLINIC, County Hospital F.A. Post.

MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, 10 a.m.—12 noon and 6—8 p.m.

This is staffed by the personnel of the F.A. Post. The treatment is by "Kathiolan" and it has proved most efficient. Every endeavour is made to have the whole family treated at one time and the clothing is sterilised at the Post, the bedding at the Brook Depot. Two attendances only are necessary and so far the results are 100 per cent. cure with no unfortunate after effects. Our thanks are due to the personnel of the Post under the charge of Mrs. Green, Post Lay Superintendent, for this excellent work.

The number of cases treated during the year was 445 compared with 260 for 1942.

6. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, 13 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER

TUESDAYS 2 p.m.—3 p.m. and 5 p.m.—6 p.m.

FRIDAYS 9.30 a.m.—10.30 a.m.

7. TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES, 36 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS for consultations.

Daily for treatment.

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5 are provided by the Council and Education Committee.

Nos. 4, 6 and 7 are provided by the Kent County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.

Beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the County Hospital for acute illness. If convalescent care is needed it is secured at a suitable institution and a Cot Fund is available.

The Salvation Army and the Rochester Diocesan Society receive unmarried mothers in their Homes.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

The requirements of this Act, which extends to children under the age of 9 years, who are received for reward, necessitates frequent inspection to see that the premises are suitable, and that the children are properly cared for.

Number of children on the register on 1st January, 1943 ... 4

Number of children on the register on 31st December, 1943 ... 8

Number of reception notices received 13

Number of removal notices

(1) to other addresses in the Borough ... 7

(2) to other addresses outside the Borough ... 2

Number of visits paid by the Health Visitors 28

VISITS

Month	Total Home Visits	Child Welfare			Ante Natal	
		0—1				
		1st	Subs.	1—5	1st	Subs.
January	356	82	138	77	—	—
February	486	56	105	112	4	—
March	473	35	168	191	2	1
April	538	56	151	179	4	4
May	305	30	78	99	—	—
June	356	31	104	146	—	—
July	511	52	153	171	3	3
August	726	74	168	308	7	29
September	1006	57	273	393	4	3
October	443	30	135	202	2	1
November	400	35	117	153	—	—
December	759	55	235	260	2	3
Total	6359	593	1825	2291	28	44

CLINICS

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
Jan.	253	40	39	1	33	38	—
Feb.	273	51	30	3	29	42	1
Mar.	323	61	27	3	28	31	1
April	295	63	34	1	41	55	—
May	341	88	35	2	41	46	1
June	346	89	36	4	39	77	—
July	370	104	43	1	33	38	—
Aug.	405	110	40	1	22	65	—
Sept.	338	110	32	3	46	71	1
Oct.	390	131	40	4	34	63	4
Nov.	309	93	23	1	45	84	1
Dec.	218	51	30	—	21	37	1
Total	3861	991	409	24	412	647	10

DENTAL TREATMENT

Below is Mr. Griffiths' Report:—

ADULTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Fillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

INFANTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Number of gas cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Fillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

As these figures show, the principal dental operation both for expectant mothers and for the pre-school children continues to be the extraction of septic teeth. Comparing 1943 with the previous year, there is a very substantial increase in the number of extractions and attendances for practically the same number of mothers.

The number of small patients is down by nearly 50 per cent. This may well mean that the teeth of the pre-school child are less carious than in earlier years, which is definitely the case among school children as a whole.

WILLIAM C. GRIFFITHS,
Dental Surgeon.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1943.

The Infant Mortality rate for 1943 showed a welcome decrease from 80 to 68, but is still much too high.

Every infant death has been investigated and the main facts are shown in the following table.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1943.

Cause of Death	No	Overcrowd- ing		Feeding		Financial Circumstances			Cleanliness			Attend Clinics		Mother Working		Min. of Food Vita- mins
		Yes	No	Breast	Bottle	Poor	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	A.N.	C.W.	A.N.	P.N.	
Prematurity (1) ...	16	—	16	—	16	—	8	8	—	8	8	9	—	7	—	6
Congen. Defects ...	5	—	5	—	5	1	1	3	—	2	3	2	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia* ...	6	1	5	2	4	2	3	1	4	—	2	3	1	—	—	5
Bronchitis* ...	2	—	2	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Gastro-Enteritis ...	12	1	11	2	12	2	6	4	3	3	6	8	6	2	—	8
Others ...	3	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	3	—	3
Accident ...	5	1	4	3	2	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	—	5
	49	4	45	9	43	7	21	21	9	17	23	25	9	13	1	30

* 2 Whooping Cough; 1 Measles. (1) 5 sets of Twins. 1 Stillborn.

Stillbirths: 20.

Ages at Death

12 hrs. 12-24 hrs. 1-7 dys. 8-28 dys. 1 mth. 2 mth. 3 mth. 4 mth. 5 mth. 6 mth. 7 mth. 8 mth. 9 mth. 10 mth. 11 mth.
7 5 10 8 4 4 2 2 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 1

Ages at Death Premature only

12 hrs. 12-24 hrs. 1-7 dys. 6 68.3
7 3 6 Neonatal Mortality per 1000 Live Births .. 41.8

As last year the chief causes are Premature Birth and Gastro-enteritis. It will be noted that all gastro-enteritis cases had some bottle feeding, though in two cases only occasional bottle feeds.

The figures for financial circumstances and standard of cleanliness are rather surprising.

Conferences have been held with Ministry of Health Medical Officers, local Practitioners and Midwives, but no satisfactory reason can be given why, with the Infant Mortality for the country, as a whole, lower than ever, Chatham's rate though better than 1942 should show a marked rise compared to pre-war figures.

I have obtained the active co-operation of General Practitioners in the area, Hospitals and Midwives. Undoubtedly the lack of breast feeding is one of the main causes and as the change over so often takes place within 24 hours of the midwife ceasing attendance it has been arranged for the midwife to notify this department the day before she is to cease attendance and the Health Visitor then visits the case and if possible meets the midwife so that she can personally hand over the case.

I regret to say that the figures for 1944 will be worse than 1943. Again Gastro-Enteritis is the chief cause, but it would appear that this group of diseases is widespread over the country as a whole.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths occurring during pregnancy and child birth are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

The Council's arrangements for supervising the health of children from birth to 5 years of age and of expectant and nursing mothers are as follows:—

1. The visiting of children in their homes.
2. The provision of sterilised outfits.
3. Dental treatment.
4. Visiting of cases of Puerperal Sepsis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
5. An Ante-Natal Clinic.
6. Investigation of Maternal Deaths.
7. Provision of Home Helps.
8. Provision of Consultants in difficult Maternity cases.
9. Treatment of Minor Ailments such Impetigo, discharging ears, etc.
10. Hospital Treatment of more complicated cases.
11. Maternity beds at the Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Home and the County Hospital. Fees are according to patients' means.

INSPECTION OF WOMEN'S CONVENIENCES

The Senior Health Visitor paid 10 visits for this purpose.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER

RAINFALL DURING 1943.

I am indebted to A. E. Watkins, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., for the following figures taken at Luton Waterworks.

Rain Gauge:—Diameter of Funnel, 5 ins.

Height of top above ground, 3 ft. 0 ins.

Height of ground above sea level, 88 ft.

Month	Total Depth	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	No. of days with .01 in. or more	.04 in. or more
	Inches	Inches	Date	
January	4.37	1.08	13th	21 18
February	1.55	0.51	1st	9 7
March	0.34	0.27	24th	4 1
April	1.30	0.51	30th	12 6
May	2.72	0.98	1st	10 9
June	1.47	0.30	3rd	13 11
July	1.89	1.01	21st	8 7
August	1.72	0.79	5th	12 9
September	1.79	0.47	12th	12 10
October	3.08	0.95	21st	12 9
November	1.42	0.22	12th	12 11
December	1.87	0.84	18th	10 7
Total ...	23.52			136 105

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

The water supply is from deep wells in the chalk. Experience here and elsewhere shows that such water is liable to pollution through the contamination of the surface of the gathering area, in this case from the top of Blue Bell Hill to the Medway. In this area are situated many houses not connected to the main drainage, but relying on cesspools, most of which are by no means watertight. There are, therefore, obvious possibilities of pollution of the water supply through fissures, etc., which are known to exist in all chalk formations. It has been necessary therefore to chlorinate the water supply to ensure an adequate degree of safety, and this has given rise to complaints regarding the taste.

Every endeavour is made to obviate this taste as far as possible and at any rate it is better to have occasionally some slight taste than to run the risk of a typhoid epidemic.

The water supply is common to the three towns and in conjunction with the Medical Officers of Health of Rochester and Gillingham samples are taken of each source of supply six times a month for Bacteriological Analysis. In all cases the treated water has been shown to be of a very high state of Bacteriological purity.

I have to thank the Water Company for their whole-hearted co-operation in securing a safe water for human consumption.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Progress is still being maintained with the abolition of cesspools and the connection of W.C.'s to the main drainage system. Where any difficulty is encountered action is taken under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby the owner of any cesspool which leaks or overflows is compelled to carry out such works as will obviate such leakage or overflowing. The cheapest and easiest method is of course to connect up to the main sewer. The scarcity of available labour is making this course of action increasingly difficult.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

General public cleansing of street gullies, household and trade refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department. Disposal is by controlled tipping.

SCHOOLS, SANITARY CONDITION AND WATER SUPPLY

The Sanitary Condition and Water Supply in schools have been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year. The Chief Sanitary Inspector makes periodical visits for this purpose.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and Sanitary Depot for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS TO THE CORPORATION SEWERS

During the year a further 47 premises were connected to the Corporation Sewers.

CESSPOOL WORK

863 complaints of choked drains were received, and it was found possible to clear 818 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints.

Some 189 cesspools were emptied, this necessitating the contents of 115 cesspools being pumped direct into the foul sewers, 1,219 tins of solids conveyed to the Joint Sewerage Board, water and 47,950 gallons of sewage transported from outlying houses to the nearest sewers.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There are 6 registered cow-keepers with 13 cowsheds in the Borough. On the Register are also:—

- 1 Producer of Accredited Milk.
- 3 Wholesale Producers.

Owing to the Borough being zoned for the distribution of milk there are 19 Retail Purveyors of Milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER AND MILK.

The following samples were collected for analysis:—

- 36 Water Samples.
- 11 Milk Samples.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Two slaughterhouses are still in use by the Ministry of Food for slaughter of animals for human consumption. Close co-operation exists between the Slaughterhouse Manager and this Department, and once again all animals slaughtered were inspected. The inspection and condemnation of foodstuffs other than meat has again taken up a considerable portion of the Sanitary Inspector's time. I am sorry to report there is no improvement in the handling and transport of meat.

CARCASSES INSPECTED

			Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
1940	..	..	2204	978	1151	18896	1637	24886
1941	..	..	2066	707	1187	12462	901	17323
1942	..	..	1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709
1943	..	..	1165	546	1025	6641	466	9861

UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED, 1943

The total amount of meat and other food destroyed was 25 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. 8 lbs., of which 14 tons 15 cwts. 1 qr. 15 lbs. was affected by Tuberculosis.

Bovine Carcasses and Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Pig	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	3
Sheep	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	14
Lungs	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	183
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	244
Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Stomachs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Intestines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Skirts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Udders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Spleens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Tons. cwts. qrs. lbs.

All meat including Home-killed meat (listed above)	...	...	...	...	20	9	3	13
Fish	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	27
Tinned and other Foods	...	...	...	...	3	10	1	28

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected	1165	564	1025	6641	466	9861
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	5	0	14	0	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	95	97	3	105	9	309
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	8.4	18.1	0.29	1.79	1.9	3.3
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	10	31	0	0	3	44
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	54	135	3	0	2	194
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	5.5	29.4	0.29	—	1.08	2.4

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

One rat catcher is employed on the staff of the Sanitary Depot.

There has been a further increase in the number of rats caught during the year and this success is largely attributable to the efforts of the rat catcher. The area around the river, the shopping centre, and the Corporation refuse tip are the chief source of infestation. There was a noticeable increase in the number of reports received following the Ministry of Food propaganda campaign.

No charges are made for the services of the Rat Catcher.

		Rats Caught			Visits
		Black	Brown	Total	
Dwelling Houses ...	2	66	68	391	
Shops and Stores ...	617	711	1328	4992	
Corporation Refuse Shoot	—	1051	1051	136	
Farms	—	706	706	41	
		<u>619</u>	<u>2534</u>	<u>3153</u>	<u>5560</u>

Days or part-days worked by rat catcher	...	...	...	...	297
Poison Baits laid	...	...	...	...	2131
Varnish Boards laid	...	...	...	...	1583
New Applications	...	...	...	...	221

BAKEHOUSES

There are 16 Bakehouses in the Borough, 2 of which are not in use.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Particulars of all cases notified and removed to Hospital will be found in Section F of this report. The numbers of loads of bedding disinfected was 126 and 25 rooms were disinfected. Library books from 15 premises were disinfected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

There are 3 common lodging houses and 8 houses let in lodgings on the register.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are 23 Fish Friers' premises on the register, 5 of which are temporarily out of use.

MORTUARY

The following bodies were removed to the public mortuary:—

Adult Males	...	...	...	...	...	9
Adult Females	...	...	...	...	...	6
Male Children	...	...	...	...	...	3
Female Children	...	...	...	...	...	3

Post mortems were carried out on 16 bodies; 1 body was buried at the expense of the Parish.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

There were no cases of suspected Swine Fever reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

VERMIN.

The following were fumigated for vermin:—

ROOMS.

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	88
Other „	...	...	...	...	...	161
Wardens' Posts	...	...	...	...	...	1

LOADS OF BEDDING.

Council Houses (including scabies) ...	...	...	33
Other Houses (including scabies) ...	...	...	150
Firewatchers ...	...	...	20
Home Guard ...	...	...	32
A.R.P. ...	...	...	81
N.F.S. ...	...	...	23
Ministry of Labour and National Service ...	...	...	4

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31st December, 1943, was 24. Many of these are now serving in H.M. Forces.

PIG SWILL

The amount of pig swill collected during the year was 104 tons 4 cwts., for which an amount of £193 6s. was received.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year 146 samples of food and drugs were taken as per the following table:—

ARTICLE	No. of Samples.		Result of Analysis.				
	Formal.	Inform.	Adulterated.		Fair Quality.		Genuine Good Quality.
			Formal.	Inform.	Formal.	Inform.	
Milk	73	4	—	1	4	1	71
Sterilized Milk ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Whisky	2	1	1	—	—	—	2
Gin	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Beer	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Semolina	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Herbs, Mixed ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Savoury Ducks ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pudding Mixture	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mustard Sauce ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Halibut Liver Oil							
Capsules	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anti-Gas Ointment							
No. 2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Tea	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Jam and Marmalade	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Cake Mixture ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Lemon Barley							
Water	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lemon Essence ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sauce	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pies	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lemonade	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Fish Roll	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sausages	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Boil Cure Tablets	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vanilla Junket							
Powder	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prepared Meal	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vinegar	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
Banana Pudding							
Mixture	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Margarine	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Coffee	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sugar	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cornflour	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Oats	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cakes	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sweets	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Curry Powder ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Aspirin Tablets ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malted Milk Tablets	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Minced Beef ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Grapefruit Saline	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meat Paste	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

The adulterated informal milk sample was from a school and it was found that the supply had not been thoroughly mixed by the teachers before distribution took place.

During the year 239 Informal Notices and 89 Statutory Notices were served.

Restaurants	44
Drainage and subsequent visits	307
Repairs and subsequent visits	1330
Housing Acts	313
Miscellaneous	432
Slaughterhouses	1048
Houses let in Lodgings	3
Common Lodging Houses	13
Fish Friers	18
Marine Stores	5
Knackers Yard	8
Gut Factory	—
Cowsheds	57
Milk Shops	123
Factories	33
Outworkers	126
Bakehouses	48
Houses, 1st Visit	460
Ice Cream Vendors	—
Public Conveniences	29
Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts	15
Market	—
Stables	47
Courts and Alleys	27
Piggeries	13
Infectious Diseases	155
Tuberculosis	88
Overcrowding	10
Bedding and Disinfection	124
Unsound Food and Cold Store	394
Food Shops	124
Schools	25
Drains Tested (New)	5
Cesspools	96
Verminous Premises	197
Council House Applicants	22
Rats Order	234

Gipsy Encampment	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
A.R.P.	...	...	...	...	...	...	230
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Food and Drugs—Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	296
Interviews (Owners, Builders, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
Police Court	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Delivery of Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Milk Samples for Bacteria	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Milk Samples for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
War Damage	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Collection of Respirators	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total							7171

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. Much difficulty is being experienced in getting nuisances abated owing to present abnormal conditions.

Accumulations of Refuse, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Broken W.C. Pans replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ceilings whitened	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspool Covers repaired or sealed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney Pots replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney Stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Choked Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Coppers repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Door Locks or Fasteners repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Doors or Frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Doors provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Draining of old buildings relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Firegrates renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Flues repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Gutters or Downpipes cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Gutters or Downpipes provided	...	...	...	...	17
Inspection Covers provided	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection Pits provided	...	...	...	...	1
Interiors cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
Keeping of Animals in unfit state	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	75
Sashcords repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	8
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Sink Waste Pipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	13
Stair-treads or Steps repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Damp Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Windows, Window Frames, Sashes or Sills repaired	...	...	...	...	28
W.C. Seats or Risers repaired	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. Structures rebuilt	...	...	...	...	5
Yard Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Verminous Bedding or Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	63

THOS. HOWARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Section D**HOUSING****1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	703
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1637
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation	239

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	167
--	-----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	89
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	58
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

NEW HOUSES DURING 1943

(a) The total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during 1943 was:—

By private persons	Nil
By the Corporation	Nil

(b) The total number of houses erected during 1943 was:—

By private enterprise	Nil
By the Corporation	Nil

(c) With State Assistance under the Housing Act:—

By the Local Authority (included in the above total (b))	Nil
By other bodies or persons	Nil

CLEARANCE AREAS

Areas taken	18
Houses included...	257
Houses demolished	257

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

326 houses were reported up to the end of 1943.

Of these—213 were demolished.

58 were rendered fit.

4 were closed under undertaking not to re-let.

18 were not yet demolished.

Parts of 3 houses have been subject to closing orders. Action not completed during 1943—30 cases. There have been 38 individual houses reconditioned by informal action.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This is a very important duty of a Public Health Department and much of the Sanitary Inspectors' time is occupied in visiting slaughterhouses and premises where food is prepared or sold.

Particulars of the number of Cowsheds, Registered Cowkeepers, Purveyors of Milk, etc., are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

POTTED AND PRESERVED MEAT

The supervision of this class of business is important. Ready cooked and prepared foods are being increasingly used by the public and a close watch is kept on such premises. They are registered under a local act.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Particulars are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

These examinations are conducted by the Kent County Council.

NUTRITION

The general level of nutrition was undoubtedly fully maintained and again no signs of Vitamin deficiency diseases were found.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASESNOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1943.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	16	15	—
Scarlet Fever	124	46	—
Pneumonia	44	1	25
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	12	12 6 n/r	—
Erysipelas	17	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	91	—	2
Measles	412	—	1

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Diphtheria Swabs	13	—	—
Tubercle Sputum	36	—	—
Hairs for Ringworm ..	—	—	—
Serum for Typhoid ..	—	—	—
Fæces for Typhoid ..	—	—	—
Fæces for Dysentery ..	10	44	54

SUPPLY OF ANTI-TOXIN

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is kept at the Public Health Department, Elm House, 15 New Road Avenue, Chatham, and at the Central Fire Station, Railway Street, and is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners. It can be obtained at any hour of the day or night.

, The number of units issued during 1943 was 344,000.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The Clinic first opened at the end of 1929 and is held every Wednesday.

New cases (1943) ...	...	...	...	...	...	878
Immunised ...	...	...	...	...	...	825
Attendances ...	...	...	...	...	...	1703

The following table shows the numbers and ages of the new cases:—

1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-6 years	6-7 years	7-8 years	8-9 years	9-10 years	10-11 years	11-12 years	12-13 years	13-14 years	14-15 years
229	64	56	55	67	57	60	49	38	37	37	40	22	4

The yearly figures are as follows:—

Year	Total New Cases	Total Immunised	Total Attendances
1931	614	560	2716
1932	575	561	2819
1933	459	405	2295
1934	392	359	1944
1935	526	482	2271
1936	415	395	2049
1937	398	381	1773
1938	138	129	775
1939	80	80	176
1940	17	—	17
1941	583	514	1097
1942	2480	2399	4916
1943	878	825	1703

A careful estimate has been made of the percentage of children in Chatham, in each of the following age groups, who have been immunised. It is an estimate only as with the normal outward and inward flow of population (probably accentuated under wartime conditions) absolute figures cannot be arrived at.

1 yr.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
35	54	51	46	49	47	66	55	60	60	64	62	60	60

ENTERIC FEVER

There were no cases notified.

SMALL POX

There were no cases notified.

VACCINATION

Approximately 75% of the children born during the year were successfully vaccinated.

INFLUENZA

There were six deaths from Influenza.

CANCER

The facilities for diagnosis and treatment are General Practitioners, the County and Voluntary Hospitals.

The total number of deaths was 35 males and 40 females.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The treatment Centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester, and is provided by the Kent County Council.

I am indebted to H. Nicol, Esq., F.R.C.S., the Medical Officer in charge, for the following particulars:—

New Patients	Chatham	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	9 (6)	4 (6)	13 (12)
Soft Sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	13 (22)	13 (7)	26 (29)
Non-venereal	24 (41)	25 (5)	49 (46)
		46 (69)	42 (18)	88 (87)

Total number of new patients from all areas served ... 339

The figures in brackets are those for 1938. There would not appear to be evidence to support the alarmist reports of increase in venereal disease in Chatham.

Discharges (all districts served)

Discharged cured:						Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	18	5	23
Soft Sore	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	62	36	98
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	...	84	95	179

Defaulted before final test of cure:

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6

Defaulted before completion of treatment:

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	9	9	18
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	10

Total attendances of Chatham patients 2252

Total attendances all districts served 7892

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Table showing new cases and Mortality during 1943.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	10	15	—	1	3	5	—	1
25—35 years	4	9	1	—	2	5	—	—
35—45 years	6	1	—	—	4	3	—	1
45—55 years	2	2	1	—	9	3	—	—
55—65 years	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
65 years up	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	27	30	5	2	21	16	—	3

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	69
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	35
Hospital and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	28
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Transferred from districts	...	...	...	...	...	5

NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	8
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hospitals and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	—
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	2

CLASSIFICATION OF NON-PULMONARY CASES

Glandular	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meninges	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Abdomen	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

On January 1st, 1943, there were on the Register:—

			Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	109	71	180
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	34	29	63

On December 31st, 1943, the numbers were:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	116	83	199
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	38	32	70

The number of cases removed from the Register during 1943 was:—

Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	50
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	2

Eleven of the above removals were presumed to be cured as there was no record of continued treatment and five years had elapsed in the case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three years in the case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis since the primary notification. Thirty-four had died and seven had left the district.

Year	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary			
	Notifications		Deaths		Notifications		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1938	26	25	20	17	8	13	3	3
1939	39	18	17	10	10	2	3	—
1940	27	21	14	9	5	4	5	3
1941	36	23	16	17	3	6	2	5
1942	34	23	22	8	11	11	3	5
1943	27	30	21	16	5	2	—	3

From the above table it will be seen that there is no evidence locally of an increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis with the possible exception of females, since pre-war years. The increase here is not great and in fact is well within the limits of the annual "swing," but it is by no means unexpected. Factory work with, in many cases, long hours and blackout is conducive to Pulmonary Tuberculosis especially in young women.

The low incidence and death rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis is good.

Considering all the difficulties of war-time, and by no means least of which is the shortage of sanatorium accommodation, the position in regard to Tuberculosis is surprisingly good.

